



U-shaped rear wards of the turn-of-the-century Gouverneur Hospital house mentally retarded infants. World-Telegram Photos

New York World-Telegram

The Sun

September 10, 1965

200 Retarded Tots Housed In Hospital Closed by City

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ists riding along the East River Drive to believe that the building is occupied. Its sooty screens and incredibly dirty windows block all view of life inside—and shut out daylight.

Before the red-brick, five-story building was closed down by the city, it contained facilities for 100 patients. It now quarters 208 children, the state spokesman said. She said most of the children are less than 5 years old.

The staff is composed of five psychiatrists, one nurse, 113 ward attendants and 62 clerks, maintenance men and guards, the spokesman said.

There are no physicians in residence at the institution.

"Any physical problems are immediately taken care of," the spokesman said, "but no physicians as such are on the roster. Whenever there is any problem because someone is ill, doctors are available from the main school on Staten Island."

At the time the building was closed, it was described as "non-fire-resistant" and its two elevators were termed inadequate under normal use and possibly dangerous in a crisis.

Its U-shaped wards and general construction presented immensely difficult problems in guarding against hospital contagion. Paint was peeling off the walls.

From the time the building, located at 621 Water St., was leased from the city in August, 1961, until the first children were moved in six months later, a general "refurbishing and repainting" was undertaken by the state, the spokesman said. She could not say whether any major renovation was undertaken.

Although she said the children at Gouverneur comprised the total under-five age category at Willowbrook, at least another 1000 infants are also housed in Staten Island buildings.

One of these "baby build-

ings" was toured by reporters yesterday in the wake of the Kennedy disclosures. The building was clean, almost cheerful, but the row-on-row of little white beds and the youngsters who occupied them made a pitiful sight.

Dr. Jack Hammond, Willow-

brook's director, said the children faced a bleak future but termed Kennedy's charges of filth and neglect as "sensational and exaggerated."

He said that the institution needed more money and more personnel to improve conditions and provide better supervision for his 7000 charges.